

Message Text

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ARA - AMBASSADOR RYAN

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P 291723Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SREF, CI

SUBJECT: CODEL MOFFETT - REPRISALS

1. ON APRIL 26, AMBASSADOR TRUCCO SENT A LETTER TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS WITH AN "OFFICIAL EXPLANATION" OF THE ZALAQUETT, EGANA AND PINTO CASES. AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

"DEAR SECRETARY ROGERS:

"WITH REGARD TO OUR CONVERSATION OF THE 19TH, IN YOUR OFFICE, AND UNDER INSTRUCTIONS BY MY GOVERNMENT, I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF INFORMING YOU OF THE FOLLOWING ABOUT THE THREE CASES RAISED BY YOU ON THAT OCCASION:

"JOSE ZALAQUETT: HE WAS DETAINED AT THE END OF 1975 FOR HIS ACTIVITIES IN PROTECTING AND COLLABORATING WITH MEMBERS OF THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION 'REVOLUTION MOVEMENT OF THE LEFT,' WHILE HE WORKED IN THE 'COMMITTEE FOR PEACE. AFTER THIS ORGANIZATION WAS DISBANDED, HE TRIED TO CONTINUE IN THE 'VICARITE OF SOLIDARITY,' A DEPENDENCY OF THE ARCHBISHOPRIC. THIS INTEREST WAS OPPOSED BY CARDINAL

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RAUL SILVA HENRIQUEZ.

"AFTER HIS RELEASE EARLY IN 1976, HE PERSISTED IN ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, ACTING WITHIN EXISTING LEGAL PREROGATIVES, DECREED HIS EXPULSION FROM THE COUNTRY ON MARCH 24. MR. ZALAQUETT SUBMITTED A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS BEFORE THE COURT OF APPEALS, WHICH MOTION THE COURT REJECTED. THIS IS CONTRARY TO THE INFORMATION WHICH APPEARED IN A SPECIAL REPORT TO THE WASHINGTON POST. THE COURT OF APPEALS RESOLVED THAT DECREE 134 OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WAS IN STRICT COMPLIANCE OF THE LAW. MR. ZALAQUETT HAD THE RIGHT TO APPEAL TO THE SUPREME COURT, BUT CHOSE NOT TO DO SO. AS A RESULT HE DEPARTED THE COUNTRY FOR SWITZERLAND.

"ACCORDINGLY, THE MEASURE TAKEN BY MY GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE THE LEAST CONNECTION WITH THE CONVERSATIONS THAT MR. ZALAQUETT MIGHT HAVE HAD WITH THREE U.S. CONGRESSMEN WHO VISITED CHILE MID-MARCH. MY GOVERNMENT EMPHATICALLY REJECTS SUCH AN AFFIRMATION.

"JAVIER EGANA BARAONA: A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL; A LAWYER WITH THE STATE BANK. DURING THE STAY OF THE THREE U.S. CONGRESSMEN, THE CHILEAN PRESS REPORTED THAT MR. EGANA ACCOMPANIED THE CONGRESSMEN ON SEVERAL VISITS AND MEETINGS.

"IN VIEW OF THE INITIAL STATEMENTS BY CONGRESSMEN MOFFETT, MILLER AND HARKIN THAT MR. EGANA MIGHT BE THE OBJECT OF 'REPRISALS' AND 'HARASSMENT,' ECHOED BY SOME OFFICIALS OF THE BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF FINANCE JORGE CAUAS LOOKED INTO THE MATTER. AS A RESULT THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE, MORE THAN FIVE WEEKS AGO STATED THAT MR. EGANA'S RESIGNATION HAS NOT BEEN PRESSURED NOR THREATENED, CONTRARY TO WHAT THE THREE CONGRESSMEN REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN WRITING. IN CONSEQUENCE, MR. EGANA CONTINUES TO CARRY OUT HIS NORMAL ACTIVITIES AS A LAWYER FOR THE STATE BANK.

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"PINTO ELGUETA: IT HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO DATE TO ESTABLISH THE EXACT IDENTITY OF THE PERSON CHARACTERIZED BY YOU AS 'MRS. PINTO ELGUETA' YOU EXPRESSED TO ME THERE WERE REPORTS SHE HAD RECEIVED 'THREATS AT NIGHT FROM UNIDENTIFIED CIVILIANS.' ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION PASSED TELEPHONICALLY BY AN OFFICIAL OF THE CHILE DESK, THE MINISTER COUNSELOR OF THIS EMBASSY WAS INFORMED THAT THIS APPARENTLY INVOLVED MRS. 'CARMEN

PINTO ELGUETA,' WHOM THE CHILEAN PRESS HAD REPORTED AS MEETING WITH THE THREE CONGRESSMEN. OTHER INFORMATION INDICATED THAT 'DURING THE VISIT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS, MRS. YOLANDA PINTO DE ELGU TA HAD BEEN DETAINED AND THREATENED.' OF COURSE, I REJECT AS INSINCERE AND ABSOLUTELY LACKING IN SUBSTANCE THAT ANY PERSON WAS DETAINED IN CHILE BECAUSE OF THE VISIT TO MY COUNTRY OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS WHICH HAD, AS HAD THE VISIT MADE BY LABOR LEADERS OF THE AFL-CIO, THE MOST POSITIVE RESULTS.

"IN ANY EVENT, THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE REAFFIRMS THROUGH ME THAT WHICH IT HAS ALREADY OFFICIALLY STATED, AND WHICH I REPEATED PERSONALLY TO YOU IN OUR CONVERSATION, THAT REPRISALS HAVE NOT BEEN TAKEN, ARE NOT TO BE TAKEN, NOR WILL THEY BE TAKEN, NOR WILL THREATS BE MADE, NOR WILL ANY ACT BE DONE CONTRARY TO THE SECURITY OF PERSONS WHO TALKED WITH THE THREE CONGRESSMEN, WHO IN SUCH A FRIVOLOUS AND UNFOUNDED MANNER HAVE PERSISTED IN ACCUSING THE GOC OF THINGS THAT HAVE NOT OCCURRED.

"I AM CONFIDENT YOU WILL ASSURE THIS OFFICIAL EXPLANATION THE SAME DISSEMINATION THAT UNFORTUNATELY WAS GIVEN OUR CONVERSATION OF THE 19TH, EVEN BEFORE THE BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS HAD THE INFORMATION THAT WAS ASKED OF ME THAT DAY.

(SGD) MANUEL TRUCCO."

2. WE EXPECT THE ZALAUETT CASE WILL BE AROUND AWHILE. ZALAUETT IS SCHEDULED TO TESTIFY BEFORE FRASER'S SUBCOMMITTEE NEXT WEEK. THEREFORE, ANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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